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Attorney Docket 53321USA1A  
Serial. No. 09/358,738

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) A method of measuring a magnetic characteristic of ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic microparticles, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition comprising an adhesive composition, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument for measuring inductance or inductive reactance; (b) subjecting a portion of the instrument to different temperatures and recording data corresponding to the performance of the instrument portion at each temperature; (c) making at least one measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (d) correcting said measurement for temperature based on the performance data; and (e) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement.

Claims 34-36 (Canceled)

37. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 33, wherein said step of providing an instrument comprises the step of providing a solenoid coil which defines the instrument portion and a meter for directly reading coil inductance, the inductance of the coil is directly related to magnetic permeability of the microparticles, and the magnetic permeability of the microparticles comprising a magnetic characteristic of the microparticles.

38. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 37, wherein said subjecting step comprises the steps of:

determining the inductance of the solenoid coil without microparticles at each of the

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different temperatures; and

recording the inductance of the coil at each temperature.

39. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 38, wherein said making step comprises the steps of:

placing the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles within the coil; and

measuring the inductance of the coil containing the composition including the microparticles.

40. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 39, wherein said correcting step comprises the steps of:

measuring the temperature of the coil containing the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles; and

subtracting the inductance of the coil without microparticles at a temperature corresponding to the measured temperature from the measured inductance of the coil containing the composition including the microparticles.

41. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 40, wherein said coil is capable of at least a 3.7 % change in inductance upon receiving the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles.

42. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 40, wherein said coil is capable of at least a 11.1 % change in inductance upon receiving the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles.

43. (Currently amended) A method of measuring a magnetic characteristic of microparticles comprising ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic material, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition comprising an adhesive composition, said method

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comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument; (b) making a measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (c) correcting said measurement for the effects of temperature variations on the performance of the instrument; and (d) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement.

44. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 43, wherein said step of providing an instrument comprises the step of providing a solenoid coil and a meter for directly reading coil inductance, the inductance of the coil is directly related to magnetic permeability of the microparticles, and the magnetic permeability of the microparticles comprising a magnetic characteristic of the microparticles.

45. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 44, further comprising the steps of:  
determining the inductance of the solenoid coil without microparticles at each of different temperatures; and  
recording the inductance of the coil at each temperature.

46. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 45, wherein said making step comprises the steps of:  
placing the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles within the coil; and  
measuring the inductance of the coil containing the composition including the microparticles.

47. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 46, wherein said correcting step comprises the steps of:  
measuring the temperature of the coil containing the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles; and  
subtracting the inductance of the coil without microparticles at a temperature

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corresponding to the measured temperature from the measured inductance of the coil containing the composition.

48. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 47, wherein said coil is capable of at least a 3.7 % change in inductance upon receiving the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles.

49. (Previously submitted) A method as set forth in claim 47, wherein said coil is capable of at least a 11.1 % change in inductance upon receiving the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition containing the microparticles.

Claims 50-55 (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) ~~A method as set forth in claim 43, further comprising of measuring a magnetic characteristic of microparticles comprising ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic material, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument; (b) making a measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (c) correcting said measurement for the effects of temperature variations on the performance of the instrument; (d) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (e) determining the level of stress in the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition from the magnetic characteristic.~~

57. (Currently amended) ~~A method as set forth in claim 43, further comprising of measuring a magnetic characteristic of microparticles comprising ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic material, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument; (b) making a measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (c) correcting said measurement for the effects of temperature variations on the performance of~~

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the instrument; (d) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (e) determining the volume or quantity of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition from the magnetic characteristic.

58. (Currently amended) A method ~~as set forth in claim 43, wherein the~~ of measuring a magnetic characteristic of microparticles comprising ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic material, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition comprises comprising a first composition containing the microparticles and a second composition mixed with the first composition, said method further comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument; (b) making a measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (c) correcting said measurement for the effects of temperature variations on the performance of the instrument; (d) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (e) determining the volume or quantity of the first composition from the magnetic characteristic.

59. (Currently amended) A method ~~as set forth in claim 43, wherein the~~ of measuring a magnetic characteristic of microparticles comprising ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic material, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition comprises comprising a first composition containing the microparticles and a second composition mixed with the first composition, said method further comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument; (b) making a measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (c) correcting said measurement for the effects of temperature variations on the performance of the instrument; (d) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (e) determining a ratio of an amount of the first composition to an amount of a second composition from the magnetic characteristic.

60. (Currently amended) A method ~~as set forth in claim 33, further comprising~~ of measuring a magnetic characteristic of ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic microparticles, said microparticles

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being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument for measuring inductance or inductive reactance; (b) subjecting a portion of the instrument to different temperatures and recording data corresponding to the performance of the instrument portion at each temperature; (c) making at least one measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (d) correcting said measurement for temperature based on the performance data; (e) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (f) determining the volume or quantity of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition from the magnetic characteristic.

61. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 33, ~~further comprising~~ of measuring a magnetic characteristic of ferromagnetic or ferrimagnetic microparticles, said microparticles being provided in a polymeric or pre-polymeric composition, said method comprising the steps of: (a) providing an instrument for measuring inductance or inductive reactance; (b) subjecting a portion of the instrument to different temperatures and recording data corresponding to the performance of the instrument portion at each temperature; (c) making at least one measurement of the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition provided with said microparticles using the instrument; (d) correcting said measurement for temperature based on the performance data; (e) determining the magnetic characteristic of the microparticles using the corrected measurement; and (f) determining the level of stress in the polymeric or pre-polymeric composition from the magnetic characteristic.